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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON (AP)-SEN. JOHN STENNIS, D-MISS., TOOK OVER AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE DEALING WITH THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY TODAY, SUCCEEDING SEN. RICHARD B. RUSSELL, D-GA.

RUSSELL WILL CONTINUE TO BE ACTIVE IN CONGRESSIONAL SUPERVISION OF THE CIA IN HIS ROLE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AND ITS DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE.

STENNIS ALSO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE FULL ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, A POST HE TOOK OVER FROM RUSSELL AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS CONGRESS.

WZ12PES FEB 20

Comment:

These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the Office of Current Intelligence to the attached item from the news services.

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Senator Stennis is comments on Mr. Helms
appearance before his sub-committee tomorrow.

UPI-91

WASHINGTON--SEN. JOHN STENNIS, D-MISS., CHAIRMAN OF THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, SAID TODAY THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED WHEN A SUBCOMMITTEE QUESTIONS CIA DIRECTOR RICHARD D. HELMS TOMORROW.

BUT STENNIS DID ANNOUNCE HIS COMMITTEE WILL QUESTION TOP PENTAGON OFFICIALS, AND PERHAPS SECRETARY LAIRD, ON THE MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF THE TREATY.

THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED THE TREATY HEARINGS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS FOR ABOUT AN HOUR TODAY. AFTER THE DISCUSSION, STENNIS ANNOUNCED THREE OF THE WITNESSES TO BE CALLED NEXT WEEK.

GEN. EARLE G. WHEELER, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS; DR. JOHN S. FOSTER III, DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING, AND DR. GLENN T. SEABORG, CHAIRMAN OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION.

THE TREATY ITSELF WILL NOT BE BEFORE THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE. STENNIS EMPHASIZED HIS COMMITTEE WAS NOT TRYING TO HORN IN ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, WHICH DOES HAVE JURISDICTION.

"OUR HEARINGS WILL BE INFORMAL. THEY ARE JUST TO LET THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE BE AWARE OF THE MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF THE TREATY, SO WE CAN INFORM OTHER SENATORS," STENNIS SAID.

THE MISSISSIPPI LAWMAKER ALSO SAID HIS COMMITTEE WOULD NOT EFFECT HEARINGS UNTIL THE TREATY, ONCE IT IS REPORTED TO THE SENATE FLOOR.

2/24--UL121F

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